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26 December 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

*USSR: Aleksandr N. Shelepin, until April 1958 head of the Soviet youth organization Komsomol and recently a high official in the party apparatus under Khrushchev, has been named to succeed General Serov as chief of the Soviet secret police (KGB). The appointment of an official apparently far removed from the security service is probably intended to emphasize party control over the KGB and seems to be in line with Khrushchev's private statements that he planned to downgrade the police further. The Supreme Soviet announcement made no mention of a new position for Serov.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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25X1 Cyprus: The Greek and Turkish foreign ministers have apparently reached a wide measure of agreement on the general framework of a Cyprus settlement, which would be based on guaranteed independence. Further progress now depends largely on Greek Premier Karamanlis' ability to accept such a solution despite expected strong criticism from his political opposition in Athens and possibly from Archbishop Makarios. On Cyprus, EOKA has offered to cease all terrorist activities provided the British reciprocate. The government recently released over 500 detainees and lifted some long-standing curfews on the movement of Greek Cypriots.

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Morocco: King Mohamed V ended Morocco's month-long government crisis on 24 December by investing a broadly representative cabinet under Abdallah Ibrahim, a leader of the Istiqlal party's left wing. The new government appears to reflect more adequately than its predecessors the major elements of Moroccan society and thus may be able to deal more successfully with the pressing problem of Berber tribal dissidence.

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New difficulties with France will probably follow if the new leaders extend more energetic support to the Algerian rebels or move to expropriate French-held agricultural lands. They can be expected to renew at an early date Moroccan pressure for the evacuation of French and Spanish troops and the American air bases.

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Singapore: The re-election on 23 December of Singapore's left wing mayor, an official of the Communist-infiltrated People's Action party, underscores the likelihood that extreme leftists will control the Singapore Government following the achievement of internal self-rule next year.

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III. THE WEST

Cuba: Rebel activity is intensifying and spreading. An attack on a sugar mill in Matanzas province is the first outbreak of such activity in this area. The government has placed all its security forces on a full alert status at least until after 1 January. Meanwhile, the Cuban army commander in besieged Santiago, the second largest city, is under pressure either to surrender the city or declare it an open city in order to avert further bloodshed.

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Panama: A new threat to political stability has arisen with the return of ex-president Arnulfo Arias and his strong condemnation of the government and the National Guard leaders in his initial press interview. Various factions critical of President de la Guardia are seeking the collaboration of Arias who has long been adept at stirring up

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mob action and apparently now regards conditions as ripe for his return to power.

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Iceland: The minority government of Social Democratic Prime Minister Emil Jonsson formed on 23 December is expected to be kept in office by Conservative parliamentary support until new elections are held, probably next spring. This government is unlikely to be able to take effective action on the country's serious economic problems, however, primarily because of opposition from the Communists who no longer have cabinet representation, but still dominate the trade union movement.

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LATE ITEM

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*USSR: In a speech to the Supreme Soviet on 25 December, Foreign Minister Gromyko struck a firm and unyielding tone on both Berlin and the Geneva nuclear test talks. He reiterated Khrushchev's warnings that if the West rejects the Soviet proposal for converting West Berlin into a demilitarized free city, the USSR will transfer control over Allied access to the East Germans. In a further effort to maintain a crisis atmosphere on this issue, Gromyko said West Berlin "may become a second Sarajevo." His remarks on the prospects for agreement at Geneva were very pessimistic. He charged the United States and Britain have decided to prevent an agreement and attacked the West's insistence on linking extension of a one-year test suspension to progress on other disarmament measures, and Western views on decision-making procedures in the control organ. He warned that no agreement will be possible if the West does not abandon these "invalid conditions."

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